THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The details of CNG stations opened by GAIL/Joint Venture Companies of GAIL are as follows:—

CNG Stations (Nos.)

City	During 2004-05	During 2005-06 (till date)	Cumulative Till date
Delhi	12	05	137
NOIDA	02	0	02
Vijaywada	03	03	03
Vadodara	01	01	03 (1 in Vaghodia)
Mumbai	30	10	115

Apart from the above, a few CNG stations have been opened by private entities in a few cities in Gujarat. At present, there is no CNG outlet in Amritsar.

(c) GAIL's Joint Venture Company, Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), has already opened 115 CNG stations in Mumbai. The opening of CNG outlets in Amritsar is not planned at present due to non-availability of gas and pipeline infrastructure.

Completion of Indo-lran gas pipeline project

†696. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date of Indo-lran agreement regarding import of gas from Iran;

(b) by when the target for completing the work of laying gas pipeline would be achieved;

(c) whether concerned countries have given their consent to lay the said gas pipeline; and

(d) if so, the present status of Indo-lran agreement regarding import of gas?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Indian Companies, viz., GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL)/ Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)/ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have signed a Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) with the Iranian company NIGEC (National Iranian Gas Export Company) on 13th June 2005 for import of 5 MMTPA of LNG (liquefied natural gas) for a period of 25 years beginning the last quarter of 2009.

As regards the import of piped gas from Iran, the Government is discussing the details of the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan. Two separate, Secretary-level Joint Working Groups (JWGs), viz., India-Pakistan JWG and India-Iran Special JWG (SJWG), have been constituted for this purpose. So far, two meetings each of the India-Pakistan JWG and the India-Iran SJWG have been held. The meetings of the india-Pakistan JWG were held on 12th & 13th July, 2005, in New Delhi and on 8th & 9th September 2005, in Islamabad. The meetings of the India-Iran SJWG were held on 3rd & 4th August, 2005, in New Delhi, and 24th October, 2005, in Tehran. The third set of meetings is scheduled for December, 2005. Various technical, commercial, financial, legal and related issues were discussed in these meetings and reviewed by the Indian and Iranian Ministers at their meeting in Riyadh on 19th November on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum Round Table Conference. The Pakistan Minister is scheduled to visit India after the next meeting of the India-Pakistan JWG. It is envisaged that the project structure and framework agreement for the project might be finalized by early next year.

Petroleum price in international market

697. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum price has increased tremendously in USA and other western countries recently;

(b) the extent of the adverse impact of such an increase in the price in India; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard to protect the public?